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The President and the Trusts.

Since the fact has come to be generally
accepted that there are good trusts as
well as bad trusts, public opinion is not
informed against all trusts as it was a
few years ago.

The country has become more rational
in its attitude. It appreciates the almost
insurmountable difficulties attending the
solution of trust problems, and fully
approves, we have no doubt, the Presi-
dent's manifest and expressed disposi-
tion to have all big corporations brought
in line with the anti-trust law by means
and methods that will least injuriously
affect business. It hailed the substantial
signs of returning prosperity, and wants
to see no step taken now, if it can prop-
erly be avoided, that will unnecessarily
disturb or retard prosperity.

But while in a mood to frown upon
any tendency toward "running amuck"
—a procedure impossible to conceive of
under a judicial administration—the coun-
try, we are likewise convinced, is equally
in accord with the President's insistent
desire and demand that corporate inter-
ests be adjusted, as speedily as public
welfare will permit, to meet the require-
ments of the law. He would be unfaith-
ful to his duty if he did not insist upon
respect for and compliance with the law
always.

Conscious that extraordinary conditions
produced by an extraordinary era can-
not be dealt with and corrected through
governmental agencies, investigations,
and prosecutions without possible busi-
ness danger, the President said to Con-
gress on January 7:

"The question which I wish in this message
to bring clearly to the consideration and discussion
of Congress is whether in order to avoid such a pos-
sible business danger from investigation and possible
prosecution something cannot be done by which the
business combinations may be offered a means, with-
out great financial disturbance, of changing the
character, organization, and extent of their business
into one within the lines of the law under Federal
control and supervision, securing compliance with the
anti-trust statutes."

Surely no menace can be detected in
this—no threat or symptom of "running
amuck," or basis of alarm. It is conser-
vatism in keeping with the situation, and
so it must be accepted, if intelli-
gently construed, even by the corpora-
tions affected.

The phase of this trust situation which
most vitally concerns the people is this:
They have not been told which are the
good and which the bad trusts. The
Bureau of Corporations has not enlight-
ened them as to the corporations or com-
binations conducted within the law
and those doing business contrary to
law. Of course, the public has known that
the government was moving against the
Standard Oil Company—what, how-
ever may be said of it otherwise, has not
exacted high prices—and contemplated,
apparently, an attempt to dissolve the
trust; but the investor has had no
knowledge, and no way of securing
knowledge, as to the legal or illegal
operations of corporations generally.

It is this large class of people who
have acquired in good faith stock in
corporate organizations, but have had no
direct part in their formation or control,
that are entitled to paramount considera-
tion at this time, and it is evident that
the President would see their interests
rightly conserved. That Congress, in
legislating upon the subject, will be any
the less mindful of this public interest
is a thought not to be entertained for an
instant.

In the very nature of things, both the
administration and the Congress must
move carefully and deliberately, but with
the one aim constantly in view—super-
vision and regulation under just legisla-
tion that will protect all interests in-
volved, and protect them fairly.

Investigating Food Prices.

Immediate and substantial benefit would
come to the people, no doubt, from an
investigation of market conditions which
affect the cost of food.

The Wall Street Journal is asking Gov.
Hughes and the legislature to turn their
attention to this legitimate field of activ-
ity. It says:

"In the city of New York we have various
market agencies, and these are currently report-
ing to the State a more or less uniform scale of prices to
the retailer. No doubt the retailer gets all he can, but
the State may well turn its attention to the
investigation of combinations in restraint of trade
in the large markets of the city.

There should be plenty of evidence. Unless the
consumer, report of all the branches is impossible
without foundation, retailers have been driven out
of business by their refusal to operate under the
dictation of one or other of the market rings. Here
is a case for an investigation which can do genuine,
immediate, and direct good. The reduction in the
price of milk shows how much such action is
feared."

A similar common report is prevalent
here. Retailers, we are told, are sub-
jected to dictation in the conduct of their
business. Competition is minimized, if
not prevented altogether, by agencies
that enforce uniformity of prices under
penalty of cutting off supplies.

Washington offers the best possible
field for an investigation. All the neces-

sary legal, District, governmental, and
legislative machinery is at hand.

Here, if common report proves well-
founded, that combinations in restraint
of trade are actually in operation, cor-
rective measures may be more quickly
and effectually applied than in any other
city.

Let the Congressional committee, if it
would produce immediate results, take
up the matter of food prices locally as
affecting Washington. Conditions dis-
closed here would undoubtedly be found
to conform, in the main, with conditions
prevailing in large cities generally. Every
material fact brought out tending to
show combinations in restraint of trade
or the use of coercive measures to regu-
late the conduct of the retailers' busi-
ness should be submitted to the Depart-
ment of Justice or district attorney's
office at once, with a view to prosecu-
tion. Or, better still, the Department of
Justice should be represented at every
hearing by one of its most capable men,
prepared to make use of available wit-
nesses and evidence before the grand
jury.

If there be nothing in the common re-
port referred to, which is strenuously
denied, let the fact be definitely and final-
ly established.

Statuary Hall.

Without disputing in the slightest de-
gree the right of the separate States to
make their own selections of favorite sons
for their several places therein, or ques-
tioning the sincerity and fraternal im-
pulse responsible for the act creating
Statuary Hall, one sometimes may not
irrationally be moved to inquire, never-
theless, Why is Statuary Hall?

The original abstract conception of this
national institution may have been en-
gaging enough, but its developing real-
ization arouses seriously conflicting emo-
tions. Close inspection of it nowadays
is not encouraging or compellingly at-
tractive. From an artistic point of view,
even in a crude aspect of that, it is a
conglomerate mess—a jumble. All sorts,
sizes, colors, and conditions of statues
stand around and about; not a few of
them seemingly protesting mutely to
know why they are there, and if there
is no escape. Some are cast in heroic
mold; some are modestly undersized; some
are in bronze; some are in marble. The
tout ensemble is bewildering in the ex-
treme, and anything but inspiring.

Now, we suppose that is not at all the
correct and proper thing to say, when
you look at it one way. Our only apol-
ogy is that it is the plain, unvarnished
truth. If Capitol guides do not hurry
through Statuary Hall, it is, we suspect,
not because they do not think they should.
Moreover, unless guides be excep-
tionally well informed—which we
regret to report, a few Capitol guides are
not—detailed information of reasonably
approximate truthfulness concerning one
half, or such a matter, of the distin-
guished Americans represented in Statu-
ary Hall is not immediately to be had—
no, not even for gold or precious stones.

Therefore, since Statuary Hall seems
likely to evolve finally into a riot of
bad taste and a nightmare of distortion,
why not mend it or end it? The funda-
mental idea is admirable and worthy of
noble execution, but the helter-skelter
methods of procedure now in vogue are
not apt to land us ultimately anywhere
near that entirely satisfactory status we
had primarily in mind.

Let the right to nominate and fix be-
yond reversal its choice of men for
representation in Statuary Hall be re-
served to the States respectively; but,
for the dead's sake, for the living's sake,
for the nation's sake, for heaven's sake,
let some symmetry of beauty and dignity
of display be observed as we go along!

Homes for Our Diplomats.

Every self-respecting American will
rejoice to know that the President has
publicly denounced as "demagoguery" a sys-
tem "which makes it absolutely impos-
sible for anybody but a millionaire to
occupy the highest diplomatic post." The
nation is a unit on that subject, except-
ing only the "plutocrats" who enjoy a
monopoly under the existing system.

Strange indeed it is that the President,
with substantially all the people behind
him, cannot solve so simple a problem,
after forty years of fruitless talk, which
he deprecates. If we will only conde-
scend to deal with the matter in a prac-
tical, business way, as other nations deal
with it, there can be no difficulty what-
ever. The primary need is official diplo-
matic residences in the European capital-
—residences provided by this government
and maintained by it. Palaces are un-
necessary and undesirable.

The fact that a handsome residence is
provided by a government and maintained
by it imparts to it the necessary dignity.
If our ambassadors and ministers in Eu-
rope were thus provided with official and
well-furnished residences, they could main-
tain themselves on the present salaries.
How should such residences be provided?
Let the answer come from Sixteenth
street, where an American lady of exqui-
site taste in architecture has solved the
problem for more than one nation. If the
French republic can afford to lease a
diplomatic residence at Washington, why
cannot this government afford to lease
such a residence at Paris?

The leasing of diplomatic residences is
the rule throughout the world, purchasing
the exception. Congress has very wisely
refused to listen to a plan that proposes
to appropriate millions for the wholesale
purchase of palaces in European capitals.
Such a proceeding is without precedent
and should be firmly rejected.

A beginning should be made by the
addition to the pending diplomatic approp-
riation bill of a sum sufficient to lease
adequate unfurnished houses in the sev-
enteen European capitals. Careful invest-
igation by a former diplomat has estab-
lished the following figures as absolutely
reliable: For London, Paris, Berlin, and
St. Petersburg, each \$12,000 per annum;
for Vienna, Rome, Madrid, and Constanc-
tinople, each \$10,000 per annum; for The
Hague and Brussels, \$5,000 per annum;
for Athens, Lisbon, Bern, Stockholm,
Christiania, Copenhagen, and Bukharest,
each \$5,000 per annum. Thus it appears
that the sum of \$135,000 per annum will
lease adequate unfurnished houses in
every European capital, and a further
sum, \$50,000, it is estimated, would be
adequate to equip the seventeen embas-
sies and legations at the outset.

If the President would only ask Con-

gress at the present time for these mod-
est and yet adequate sums, who could
doubt its willingness to respond promptly?
Thus assisted, our diplomats in Europe
could maintain themselves, for the pres-
ent at least, on existing salaries. As
every diplomat knows, the sine qua non
is a decent, well-furnished official resi-
dence. It is almost as difficult for a
fisherman to do business without a boat
as it is for a diplomat to do business
without such a residence. An increase in
salaries would do little or nothing toward
removing such a difficulty. After a be-
ginning has been thus made, the remain-
ing problems will solve themselves by an
extension of the system to Latin America
and the Orient. Then from time to time
we could buy a house here and there, as
other governments do, when a good op-
portunity offers.

Secretary Wilson fears a vegetable diet
would make us "a nation of mollycod-
dles." And as a meat diet at present
prices is said to be "encouraging race
suicide," it is difficult to see how Mr.
Roosevelt is to be kept out of the row
much longer.

The ever-increasing expense of exist-
ence has run the two-can-live-as-cheaply-
as-one-galoot to cover, all right!

The unsafe and insane Seine!

We hope Halley's comet will not be
discouraged merely because a celestial
"buttnik" is seeking to get in the lime-
light ahead of it. This comet is a sort of
Dr. Cook thing, we imagine.

The beef magnates' porterhouse steaks
are much easier and more pleasant to
swallow than their excuses.

"Did Tom Watson's ears ever burn?"
inquires the Macon News. We think it
more than likely; Tom is red-headed, you
know.

Alas, poor Ezra Kendall! We loved
him well. A fellow of infinite jest!

There are other things in this some-
times melancholy world that probably
worry Senator Gordon more than the Mis-
sissippi legislative deadlock.

One thing that makes the practice of
medicine generally so satisfactory to phy-
sicians is the inclination of many people
not to take their doctor's advice after
they have secured it.

We are very much interested in Mr.
Edison's new storage battery. We are
also more or less interested, we regret to
report, in cold-storage eggs.

Mr. Taft is very much fretted, it is
said, "because of Congress' seeming dis-
inclination to work." Mr. Taft, it must
be remembered, however, is still rather
young in the President's business.

The wholesale price of pork has fallen
one-half cent per pound. This may per-
suade the gentle retailer to advance it
only 1 cent instead of 2.

"In my younger days I was a carpen-
ter," says President Diaz. And a good
one, too, if the continued excellent state
of his fences indicates anything.

A number of Harry Thaw's personal
belongings are to be sold for souvenirs.
And such is the character of a large
percentage of our people that they likely
will bring a handsome sum, moreover.

Mr. Bryan is in South America. This
should serve to divert the popular mind
down that way from violent revolutionary
thoughts, anyway.

The Hartford Courant opines that "there
will be junkies as long as there are
Congressmen." And by any other name, too,
they will be as odoriferous.

What is the biggest "ad" for the small-
est thing in this country? William Allen
White for Emporia, Kan., is our guess.

An enemy of the newspapers says
bargain sale advertisements should be
outlawed. Do foolish people of that kind
desire to line-up the press solidly for
suffragetteism?

Mr. John W. Gates now denies venes-
erably that he ever, at any time or any-
where, advised an assemblage of Method-
ist preachers not to gamble. Whether he
did or not, however, the preachers prob-
ably will not do it.

Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis inti-
mately that he may be depended upon to
smite the beef trust sorely. The common
people will advance no objection, though
they probably will incline to a modest
hope that he goes after it with something
more effective than one of his famous
\$25,000 fines.

CHAT OF THE FORUM.

A Democrat's Boast.
From the Columbia State.
It is a poor Democrat who would not make
a better President than the best Republican.

Timbuctoo Were Better.
From the Montgomery Advertiser.
Zelaya is going to Belgium, where the Brussels
carpet is made. Can you "beat" it?

Hair-raising Oratory.
From the Atlanta Constitution.
The bald-headed humorist who poke fun at Gov.
Vardaman's hair should remember that his speeches
are hair-raising.

Judge Landis' Record.
From the Louisville Courier-Journal.
Let us hope that Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis
may live to see larger results from his activity
against the beef trust than history finally recorded
in the Standard Oil case.

Ollie James No Suffragette.
From the Houston Post.
Congressman Cooper in a moment of absent-
mindedness alluded to Ollie James as Jesse James.
Now comes a Fort Worth suffragette and wants
to know if Ollie is a lady.

Consular Reform.
From the New York Tribune.
Consular reform by Congressional action is held
in Congress to be unconstitutional; but consular
reform by executive order is likely to stand un-
challenged.

That Tired Feeling.
From the Providence Journal.
There must be moments when Mr. Roosevelt
wishes he were in the United States and other mo-
ments when Mr. Taft wishes he were in Africa.

Bacon and Shakespeare.
From the Detroit Free Press.
The price of bacon has advanced 30 per cent dur-
ing the last two years, but you can still get Shake-
speare at a dollar down and two mints for fifteen
cents.

Mr. Taft's Statesmanship.
From the Detroit News.
President Taft's statesmanship as well as his ideas
of administration are all summed up in the words,
"Republican party." Witness what he says to
Pinchot in dismissing him: "By your conduct you
have destroyed your usefulness to those who hold
the Republican party as the government." Now
will the President kindly tell us just who it is
that holds the Republican party as the govern-
ment?

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

PLEA TO POETS.
Poets ought to change the wheeze
Now and then,
Shake the butterflies and bees
For the hen;
Write a bit of verse to please
Common men.

Sunset themes have had their day,
Failed to sell.
Tripe should fit a roundelay
Just as well.
Put a fried egg into a
Villanelle!

Plenty of Material.
"How do you recruit your trained fleas?"
"No trouble about that. Other fleas
get stage-struck, and we fairly have to
turn away the water bugs."

Different Ways.
"I'm sure Cholly loves me," asserted
the first girl. "He says such beautiful
things."
"I find Ferdie's method more convinc-
ing," responded the second girl. "He
can't utter a yawn."

The Question.
"King Menelik, of Abyssinia, is dead."
"Again, or yet?"

Very Cautious.
The Balkan malcontents are loath
To risk their hides.
They seem to want to be on both
The party sides.

Apt to Happen.
"What's the latest in the meat boy-
cott?"
"The butchers are delivering it in un-
lettered wagons, I believe."

Some Solace.
"Pay me the back salary you owe me,"
demanded Yorick Hamm.
"I haven't a cent," declared Hamlet
Fatt.
"Pay me or I sue."
"Well, I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll let
you wear my fur overcoat awhile."

His Status.
"That man is a walking encyclopedia."
"Quite so. Full of information of no
particular interest or value to any one."

GLOBE SIGHTS.

From the Athens Globe.
A politician becomes a statesman after
he is elected.

Every man's idea of reform is to fix
things to suit himself.

We hate the tariff so much that a
smuggler never seems like a very great
sinner.

We don't accomplish much, but try to
keep ahead of the special sessions in that
respect.

A young man may be as silly as a
young woman, but he never has a diary
to show it.

If a woman hasn't any faith in a man,
it is good evidence that at one time she
had too much.

When a man looks back and sees that
temptation is no longer pursuing him, he
turns around and begins to pursue it.

Speaking of heirlooms, relics, and the
like, the record probably belongs to some
of the chestnuts which pass as family
jokes.

There is an insurgent in nearly every
home, and intimate association there-
with should make you sympathize a
little with Mr. Taft.

We notice by the advertisements that
every woman can save some drunkard,
but this doesn't warrant her in marrying
a drunkard just to prove it.

Occasionally a voice is raised against
the bill boards showing abbreviated skirts.
If we were a reformer, we would protest
against the drug store window displays
of rubber goods.

The real Indian never shows up as well
as the lithographs in the den. And left
with, should be accused of race prejudice, we may
as well admit that the same rule applies
to real white men, as compared with the
young athletes in the clothing advertise-
ments.

Why He Was Excluded.
From the Kansas City Times.
A friend of James Whitcomb Riley tells
of an occasion when the humorist, who
usually dislikes social functions, was in-
duced to attend a "literary" dinner in
Indianapolis, given in honor of one of the
novelists who lived there. Mr. Riley had
been told to take into dinner a sister
of the host, an excellent woman, but not
literary.

The conversation touching upon the
beauties of Chaucer, about whom a cer-
tain set of the city was then cultivating
a fad, a spirited discussion ensued, during
which the bewildered sister caught from
time to time only the name "Chaucer."
At last she whispered to Riley:

"Who is this Mr. Chaucer they're talk-
ing so much about? Is he very popular in
society?"

"Madam," solemnly responded Riley,
"what man did something that forever
shuts him out of society."
"Mercy!" exclaimed the worthy woman.
"What was it?"
"He died several hundred years ago,"
said Riley.

Wars of the United States.
From the New York American.
The thirteen wars in which the United
States has engaged are as follows: 1. War
of the Revolution, seven years, 1775-1783.
2. Indian war in Ohio Territory, 1790. 3.
War with the Barbary States, 1803-1804.
4. Tecumseh Indian war, 1811. 5. War
with Great Britain, three years, 1812-1815.
6. Algerine war, 1815. 7. First Seminole
war, 1817. 8. Black Hawk war, 1832. 9.
Second Seminole war, 1835. 10. Mexican
war, two years, 1846-1848. 11. Mormon war,
1856. 12. Civil war, four years, 1861-1865.
13. Spanish war, April 21 to July 26, 1898.

None but the Vulgar Rich.
From the Houston Post.
"Look at that old man with the egg-
stain on his shirt-front."
"It is only the vulgar rich that are
fond of such display."

WOULD-YOU?

I'd like to taste the coffee
Mother used to make;
The rice and cake
And cookies, too,
Like she
Used to bake;
Wouldn't you?

Dear,
I'd like to feel again
Her lips so very red
That kiss away my tears
And soothe my every pain
And tenderly caress
My weary head
Upon her loving breast!

Yes, he understood
(For it's no mistake)
I years
For the
"Goodies" mother baked!
It was my wife would only learn
To cook good!
The thing that I regret
It may be ungrateful—yet
I do not care
To feel once more the slipper that
It was!

"C. E. Shetler, in 'Kidnapped Dreams.'"



"Private" John Allen, as a story teller,
is in a class by himself. He has said on
more than one occasion, if he had his life
over, he would be a monologist. "Pri-
vate" John is never so happy as when he
can get a good one off on a friend. He
had a friend who was captured by the
Union troops. When the "Private" was
asked why his friend was so fortunate
as to be liberated, he said: "Why, he ate
too much, and the prison officials came
to the conclusion that it was cheaper to
let him go." Another friend was anxious
to get back to the Union lines. "My
dear friend," said the "Private," "allow
yourself to get captured by the Yankees,
and they will carry you back."

A discerning member of the House has
introduced a bill making it an offense
for the poor enumerators even to ask a
person his political belief, or the belief of
his neighbor. If he does, and is caught,
a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for one
year stares him in the face.

Senator Heyburn thinks the bootblack
and porter should be exempt from the
operations of the Sunday observance law.
Senator Bailey is of the opinion the bar-
ber is even a more important personage
in the necessary preparation for a church
service.

Representative Charles Russell Davis,
of Minnesota, says there are insurgents
and insurgents, but he has been insur-
ing for years and is without doubt the
only original insurgent. He wants it
understood that he insures along pro-
gressive lines, and is not an obstruction-
ist.

Room 210 in the Senate office building
is now the center of attraction. It is
the room adjacent to the large room
which is used for the public hearings of the
Ballinger-Pinchot investigation. Some-
time before the meeting the crowd as-
sembles, and among the number there
are a great many ladies. Senator Nel-
son sits at the head of the long table,
the Senatorial members of the commit-
tee arranged along the left, and the
House members on the right.

Representative James H. McMillan has
composed a flighty song,
dedicated to the House insurgents, en-
titled "Come Fly with Me in My Air-
ship."

Senator Johnston, who had the Dis-
trict Sunday observance bill in charge,
was subjected to the Senatorial inquisi-
tion, but the Alabama banker stood the
test well for a beginner, though the
numerous amendments and suggestions
got him a little mixed.

Senator Cummins refuses to believe the
statement that the District of Columbia
is sadly in need of a Sunday law, not-
withstanding that Senator Gallinger, "the
mayor of Washington," says it is.

When the deer comes from away
back to visit the Capital of the Nation,
they open their eyes in astonishment and
often times with admiration when they wit-
ness the fine surroundings of their Sena-
tors and Representatives in Congress.
Their eyes fairly beam when they are
ushered into their Senators' rooms and
are loath to sit in the handsome chairs.

After they see these things it is possible
to make them believe almost anything.
In the subway connecting the Capitol with
the office building there are a number
of electric cars for the use of the Sena-
tors, and they ride to and from their
offices in luxury. A Capitol guide was
showing these playthings to a party from
the West. Their wonderment at the con-
veniences of the statesmen was apparent,
but when the guide told them that each
Senator had a car and that their Sena-
tor was, of course, the owner of one of
them, their pleasure and admiration were
without bounds.

You can't lose the Vice President—
"Sunny Jim." When a Senator alludes to
the fact that a bill which is up for con-
sideration is in charge of another Sena-
tor, he is forcibly reminded by the Vice
President that no Senator has charge of
the bill, but that it is in charge of the
Senate.

Senator Jeff Davis is always in his seat
and occasionally makes a few remarks
or asks a question. The older Senators
are getting extremely nervous; they are
fearing an outbreak at any moment.

Only on His Job.
From the Detroit Free Press.
"How many times have you been mar-
ried?"
"Three, but—"

"Madam," he interrupted, "I'm taking
the census, not proposing."

What was it?
"He died several hundred years ago,"
said Riley.

Wants a Bath.
From the Cornell Widow.
"When I leave here I shall have to
depend on my brains for a living."

"Don't take such a pessimistic view
of things."

Clean Living.
From the London Opinion.
James—A bath bun and two sponge
cakes, please.
Waitress—Two sponges and a bath for
this gentleman, please!

A Poor Dependence.
From the Cornell Widow.
"When I leave here I shall have to
depend on my brains for a living."

"Don't take such a pessimistic view
of things."

It has since been proven that North,
as early as 1776, believed that the un-
yielding policy he was pursuing with
regard to the American colonies would
end in ruin to the King and to the coun-
try; yet, in the face of the powerful op-
position of Fox and Burke, he allowed
his own convictions to be overborne by
the obstinacy of King George's ultra-
tory purpose. In 1783 he was forced to
a renunciation of the right to tax the
colonies; but the concession came too
late, and in 1782, finding it impossible
to carry on the war any longer, he resigned.

When the news was conveyed to Lord
North in October, 1781, of the surrender

of Lord Cornwallis to Gen. Washington
at Yorktown he wildly exclaimed: "O
God, it is all over!" That victory was
not only a great one for the Colonial
army, but it was a sad one for Lord
North, for it was the deathknell to his
ministry.